

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 24, 2010. Claims 1-5, 8 and 9 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being in independent form. By the present Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claims 7, 11 and 12 have been canceled. Claims 2-5, 8 and 9 have been withdrawn from consideration. It is submitted that no new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised by the present Amendment.

Claims 1, 7, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, because a mathematical formula is shown in parentheses and allegedly does not therefore further limit the claim. Without conceding the propriety of this rejection, the parentheses have been removed. It is respectfully requested that this language now be considered on the merits. Withdrawal of the rejection under Section 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly obvious from WO 00/02715 to Newell et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,002,524 to Mills and G.B. Patent 2,302,834 to Hardisty and further in view of U.S. Patent 3,895,549 to Noda. Claims 1, 7, 11 and 12 were also rejected under Section 103(a) as allegedly obvious from Newell in view of Mills, Hardisty and U.S. Patent 5,386,753 to Baron et al. Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits independent claim 1 is patentable from the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 relates to a machine for slitting plane packaging blanks made of corrugated board comprising a driving roller assembly for advancing the packaging blanks and at least one rotatable slitting roller with at least one knife for producing a front edge slit and/or a rear edge slit in each packaging blank. A program timer is provided for controlling the driving motor and rotation of the rotatable slitting roller. The program timer controls the driving motor such that the first knife end edge is initially positioned at a predetermined angle (x) from a cutting nip site, the

predetermined angle (x) corresponding to a desired slit length taken along an outer radial edge of the slitting roller. When the front edge of the blank has reached a cutting site the program timer turns the rotatable slitting roller forward until the front edge slit has been cut.

As clearly described in Newell, the initial position of the blade is at a point on the circumference of the blade equal to the intended leading slot length B, plus the acceleration zone A (page 15, lines 26-31). That is, Newell must account for an acceleration time to allow the blade to come up to speed.

In contrast, according to the present disclosure, no acceleration zone is required. As recited in independent claim 1, the program timer controls the driving motor such that the first knife end edge is initially positioned at a predetermined angle (x) from a cutting nip site, the predetermined angle (x) corresponding to a desired slit length taken along an outer radial edge of the slitting roller. That is, according to embodiments of the present disclosure, the knife does not require an acceleration zone as required in Newell.

Accordingly, Applicant submits independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required in connection with this amendment and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition, and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Entry of this amendment and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard F. Jaworski', is written over a horizontal line.

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